

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to more clearly set forth the description of FIGS. 5A and 5B.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,



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Patent Versions with Markings to Show Changes Made

The paragraph on Page 4, being at line 12 has been amended as set forth below:

-- FIGS. 5A and 5B are [is a] diagrams depicting service account information, including identification of a plurality of designee's locations; --

The paragraph on Page 16, beginning at line 3 has been amended as set forth below:

-- The regional printing center is selected by assigning, to each city in FIG. 8, a list of 3-digit ZIP Code prefixes. This assignment is done using the official national zone charts, which are available from the United States Postal Service (USPS) as a software package. These charts identify the distance codes, or "zones" for every pair of ZIP codes in the U.S. Zone charts were produced by the USPS using geological survey files of established latitude and longitude coordinates to determine the distance between the originating ZIP code (e.g. the ZIP code of each regional printing center listed in FIG. 8) and the destination ZIP code (e.g. the ZIP code of the designee(s) shipping address provided in the service account information in FIG. 5A and 5B). The regional printing center selected is the regional printing center having the lowest zone number that is able to produce the selected photo product(s). If, for some reason, this particular regional printing center is not operational, the next closest regional printing center is selected. --

The paragraph on Page 16, beginning at line 16 has been amended as set forth below:

-- In block 118, the central fulfillment service, via network server 42, communicates the order information to the regional printing location selected in block 116. This can be accomplished by communicating the appropriate service account information listed in FIGS. 5A and 5B. --

The paragraph on Page 16, beginning at line 25 has been amended as set forth below:

-- The service account information shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B also includes a list of product IDs for the several products ordered by the user, each having a different identifier (ID). The products include Product ID-1 (lines 33-45) which specifies a customized album, Product ID-2 (lines 47-54) which

specifies a framed print, and Product ID-3 (lines 56-63) which specifies customized service prints. The album related information (lines 33-45) includes the page size, album type, and background style selected. It also includes page number information, such as the style, font, and color of the text, and the last page number printed. The last page number information is updated each time new album pages are printed. It can be used to automatically tell the user when an album has been filled, and a new album needs to be purchased. The album related information also includes a list of image numbers (line 43) to be included in the album. These image numbers correspond to image identifiers listed in the Image upload list section (lines 67-85) of FIG. 5B. The album related information also indicates that designee #1 should receive the order (line 44) and the order status (line 45). The order status indicates that this photo product has been ordered by the user, but not yet fulfilled. Once fulfilled, the status will be updated to indicate that this order has been completed. --

The paragraph on Page 17, beginning at line 10 has been amended as set forth below:

-- The framed print information (lines 47-54, see FIG. 5B) specifies the frame size, frame style and color, and matte style. It also includes a list of image numbers (line 52) to be used to produce the framed print. This image number (Image number 3) corresponds to image identifier listed for image number 3 in the Image upload list section (line 50) of FIG. 5B, which is the image identified as /D/DCIM/100DC280/DCP_0017.JPG, the path name of the image on the home computer system 10. The information also indicates that designee #2 should receive the order (line 53) and the order status (line 54). —

The paragraph on Page 18, beginning at line 9 has been amended as set forth below:

-- The service account information is stored in electronic database 44. Alternatively, some or all of the service account information could instead be stored on hard drive 20, or could be duplicated on hard drive 20 of home computer system 10. In block 118, the appropriate subset of the service account information is communicated to the particular regional printing location 140 that was selected in block 116. For example, in block 116 the Buffalo regional printing center was selected to print and ship the album defined as product ID-1,

because this product will be shipped to Rochester, New York. Therefore, the central fulfillment center 40 communicates to the Buffalo regional printing center the mailing address of designee #1 (lines 15-19 in FIG. 5A) and the information, which defines product ID-1 (lines 34-45 in FIG. 5B). In block 116 the Chicago regional printing center was selected to print and ship the framed print defined as product ID-2, because this product will be shipped to Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. Therefore, the central fulfillment center 40 communicates to the Chicago regional printing center the mailing address of designee #2 (lines 21-25 in FIG. 5A) and the information which defines product ID-2 (lines 47-54 in FIG. 5B). Finally, in block 116 the Los Angeles regional printing center was selected to print and ship the service prints defined as product ID-3, because this product will be shipped to Irvine, California. Therefore, the central fulfillment center 40 communicates to the Los Angeles regional printing center the mailing address of designee #3 (lines 27-31 in FIG. 5A) and the information which defines product ID-1 (lines 57-63 in FIG. 5B).

The paragraph on Page 19, beginning at line 10 has been amended as set forth below:

-- Typically, the modem connection 22 between the home computer system 10 and the network service provider 30 provides a data rate that is much lower than the data rate provided by the channel 36 between the central fulfillment center 40 and the regional printing locations 140. Therefore, it is preferable for each digital image to be uploaded only once from the home computer system 10. For example, if the same digital image (e.g. Image 1 defined in line 68 of FIG. 5B) is used in two or more photo products produced at different locations (e.g. Album ID-1 produced at the Buffalo regional printing center and service print ID-3 produced at the Los Angeles regional printing center), it is preferable to transfer the image from the home computer system 10 to the fulfillment center 40 for storage in electronic database 44. The digital image is then transferred from network server 42 via channel 36 to network server 142 of each of the particular regional printing centers 140 (e.g. Buffalo and Los Angeles) which will produce photo products using this particular image. --

The paragraph on Page 19, beginning at line 24 has been amended as set forth below:

-- If, on the other hand, one or more digital image files are to be used only by the particular printing location, it is preferred that the digital images be transferred from the home computer system 10 directly to the particular regional printing location 140 that will produce the photo products. For example, Images 17-18 (lines 84-85 in FIG. 5B) are used only to produce service prints for product ID-3. These images can be uploaded directly from home computer system 10 to the Los Angeles regional printing location 140. In this case, the digital images are transferred from the home computer system 10 to the network address of the selected regional printing center 140. This is preferably done by the central fulfillment center 40 communicating with the user's home computer system 10 to provide the network address of the selected regional printing location 140. Alternatively, the central fulfillment center 40 can communicate the address of the user's home computer system 10 to the selected regional printing center 140, and instruct it to initiate the uploading of the digital image files from the home computer system 10 at the appropriate time. The printing controller 152 in the particular regional printing location 140 is responsible for monitoring the image uploading, and for communicating the status of this uploading to the fulfillment center 40 when problems occur. --

The paragraph on Page 20, beginning at line 10 has been amended as set forth below:

-- As the images are uploaded, the image upload status in the service account information (lines 67-85 in FIG. 5B) are updated to indicate which images have been successfully uploaded. In the unlikely event that the consumer needs the phone line while the image uploading is being conducted, the uploading will terminate. This can be noted by the user's computer 10 or the network server 42, which can automatically re-establish the connection at a later time, via the network service provider 30, and upload the images having a status of "To be uploaded". --

The paragraph on Page 20, beginning at line 23 has been amended as set forth below:

-- For the example in FIG. 5B, the service prints for product ID-3 are printed using the color hardcopy printer 154 located in the Los Angeles regional printing center to produce hardcopy prints 58. The hardcopy prints 58

use the size and finish specified in lines 58-59 of FIG. 5B. Before printing, each digital image is overlaid with the date stamp as specified in line 60 of FIG. 5B. --

The paragraph on Page 20, beginning at line 28 has been amended as set forth below:

-- If the user has ordered album pages (e.g. product ID-1 in FIG. 5B), the uploaded digital images can be automatically arranged on the pages by printing controller 152 and printed by color hardcopy printer 154 to produce album pages 56 as described in commonly assigned U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/347,310, filed July 2, 1999 to Loui et al.; U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/199,724, filed November 25, 1998 to Shaffer et al; and Serial No. 09/199,639, filed November 25, 1998 to Shaffer et al., the disclosures of which are herein incorporated by reference. The last page number (line 42) in the service account information depicted in FIG. 5A is updated to reflect the number of album pages that will be produced to show the uploaded images. Alternatively, as part of block 114, the user can manually arrange the images on the pages and also select preferred colors, messages, logos, etc. --

The paragraph on Page 22, beginning at line 1 has been amended as set forth below:

-- To produce framed prints (e.g. product ID-2 in FIG. 5A), the digital images are printed at the closest regional printing location 140 capable of producing framed prints (e.g. the Chicago regional printing center) using color hardcopy printer 154 to produce hardcopy prints 58. Each hardcopy print 58 includes the user selected matte border, for example the solid blue border specified in line 31 of FIG. 5A. Each hardcopy print 58 is then framed using the appropriate frame 68, for example the classic - walnut frame specified in line 50 of FIG. 5B. --

The paragraph on Page 22, beginning at line 9 has been amended as set forth below:

-- In block 124, the printing controller 152 in the particular regional printing location 140 in FIG. 1 controls the shipping label printer 170 to produce the shipping label 74 using the shipping address of the customer or customer's designee provided in the service account information (FIGS. 5A and 5B). The shipping label 74 is attached to the shipping container 64 that is used to

ship the photo product 66. Alternatively, the production controller 152 in the fulfillment center 40 controls the shipping label printer 70 to produce the shipping label 74. The shipping label 74 is attached to the shipping container 64 that is used to ship the photo product 66.

The paragraph on Page 22, beginning at line 26 has been amended as set forth below:

-- In block 126, the customer account provided in the service account information (FIGS. 5A and 5B) is billed for the order. At this point, the financial institution having the customer's account designates such funds for transfer to the product provider or seller. --

The paragraph on Page 23, beginning at line 8 has been amended as set forth below:

-- After the photo products are shipped to the user in block 124, the digital images uploaded by the user in step 116 can be deleted from the printing controller 152 in FIG. 1. The digital images are retained in the electronic database 44, however, if the user requested that they be maintained for long term storage and "sharing" via the Internet. The service account information in FIGS. 5A and 5B is retained, so that it can be used for subsequent orders by the same customer. This typically occurs many weeks or months later, when the user wants to print additional images. At this time, the customer again logs onto the Internet site and enters their name and password, similar to block 100. Alternately, the home computer system 10 can include a "cookie" created and stored on hard drive 20 when the user first accessed the Internet site in step 100. This "cookie" can automatically identify the user account. In response, the central fulfillment center accesses, from the electronic database 44 in FIG. 1, the service account information for the customer. The network server 42 provides a display for the user based on the Product ID information stored in the user's service account. For example, if the user had selected an 8" x 10" double-sided album pages in a 3-ring, 2" thick binder with a marble texture background and a selected page number style in step 112, the Internet server 42 would also present to the user an image depicting this combination for the user to review. The network server 42 also allows the user to select new types of products to purchase, and to customize the products, as provided earlier in blocks 106 to 112. --